

FAVORITE LOCAL RIDES

Suggested by Tri-City Bicycle Club

CAUTION: Please be advised that several of these routes utilize heavily traveled streets and intersections. There are difficult railroad crossings and dangerous bridges to cross, as well as steep grades and miles of desert riding. Proceed with caution. Thoroughly familiarize yourself with the routes before attempting to ride them. Consider your bicycling experience and your physical condition. Ride prepared.



Sacagawea Heritage Trail

19 or 23 miles

Begin at Marina Park on Columbia Point. Travel under I-182 and turn right onto the freeway trail. Double back across the Columbia River and traverse down to Court Street. Follow the Court Street bike lane easterly (left) then turn right onto the pedestrian/bicycle path through Chiawana Park and along the river shore to Pasco. The pathway terminates at "A" Street. Follow "A" Street east, then right on 10th Avenue to re-cross the river into Kennewick via the Cable Bridge. Turn right onto Columbia Drive, then right again at Fruitland Street. This roadway becomes Riverside Drive and passes under the SR 395 Blue Bridge, into Columbia Park. Traverse the length of the park via Columbia Park Trail (some path segments available). Turn right onto SR 240 and cross the Yakima River on the side path. The pathway swings easterly, parallel to I-182, and then traverses under the freeway to Marina Park. (19-mile loop).

The alternative, longer route does not use SR 240, but continues westerly on Columbia Park Trail, then right onto Windmill Road and onto the I-182 bicycle path at the cul-de-sac. Follow the path easterly across the Yakima River and under SR 240, then under I-182 to Marina Park. (23-mile loop).

Richland Bike Tour 12.3 miles

Begin this ride in Howard Amon Park at the east end of Lee Boulevard. Travel north through the park and onto the bike path paralleling the river. Continue north through Leslie Groves Park to Ferry Road. Continue on Ferry Road to Harris Avenue. Turn right on Harris Avenue and head north to Sprout Road. Turn right on Sprout Street and rejoin the path near the river. Travel north on the path to the Hanford 300 Area (approximately 2 miles) and return to Sprout Street. Turn left on Harris Avenue, continue south and turn left on Ferry Road, continue east to path along river and continue south to Howard Amon Park.

Yakima River Loop 45 miles

As in the Richland Bike Tour, ride north from Howard Amon Park on the pathway paralleling the river. At the end of the pathway, turn left one block on Kinney Street, then right on Port of Benton Boulevard to Horn Rapids Road and turn left. Travel west on Horn Rapids then south on Kingsgate Way until it joins SR 240. Turn right onto SR 240 and continue past Horn Rapids Dam to the Benton City turn-off at SR 225. Turn left and ride past Horn Rapids Park and through Benton City. After crossing the Yakima River turn left onto SR 224. At the next intersection continue straight ahead on Queensgate Road to South Richland. Cross over I-182 then left on Columbia Park Trail, left again at Windmill Road and proceed to the I-182 bicycle path at the cul-de-sac. Follow the path easterly across the Yakima River, and under SR 240. Proceed northeasterly, following the pathway down to Columbia Point Drive. Turn left under I-182, then right onto Bradley Boulevard to Howard Amon Park.

Clodfelter Road Loop 43 miles

Leave Columbia Center from the west via Gage Boulevard to Leslie Road. Turn left and follow Leslie 2 miles to Clearwater Avenue near I-82. Cross Clearwater and traverse up Leslie to Clodfelter Road. Turn right across I-82, following Clodfelter Road southwesterly into the Horse Heaven Hills about eight miles and turn right on Plymouth Road. Turn left onto Sellards Road and proceed west 4.5 miles to Travis Road. Right on Travis 3.7 miles then angle right again on Weber Canyon Road. Proceed down Weber Canyon about 5 miles, then right onto Badger Road. Follow Badger nearly 13 miles, crossing under I-82, then left onto Leslie Road. Follow Leslie north 2 miles, then right on Gage Boulevard for the return to Columbia Center.

Chiawana Park Loop 9 miles

This loop begins in Chiawana Park in West Pasco. Follow the bike path easterly along the Columbia River levee to the trailhead near Road 39 and Riverhaven Street. Proceed westerly along Riverhaven to Road 44. Follow Road 44 north to Livingston. Turn left on Livingston and go west to Road 48. Turn right on Road 48 and proceed to Argent Road. At Argent Road, turn left and follow Argent to Road 88. Turn left on Road 88 and proceed south to the main entrance to Chiawana Park.

Columbia Park Loop 8 miles

Begin at the family fishing pond in the east end of Columbia Park. Follow the bike path signs through the parking lot and around the flagpole circle heading west. Follow the path along the Columbia River to Columbia Park West Marina. Return to the fishing pond via the path or the bike lanes on Columbia Park Trail.

Grosscup Road Loop 18 miles

This ride originates in Richland at the SR 240/SR 224 (Van Giesen Street) park and ride lot. Follow Van Giesen Street west across the Yakima River and through downtown West Richland. Turn right at Grosscup Road. Take Grosscup along the canal and across the Yakima River Twin Bridges to SR 240. Turn right and follow SR 240 to the stoplight. Turn right and follow SR 240 southerly to Van Giesen Street. Right on Van Giesen then right on Terminal Drive to the park and ride lot.

Columbia Park to Sacajawea State Park 18 miles

Start at the family fishing pond in the east end of Columbia Park. Ride east under the SR 395 Blue Bridge to Columbia Drive. Turn left, following Columbia Drive to SR 397 (Chemical Drive), then left again, crossing the Columbia River on the Cable Bridge. Turn right onto Ainsworth Avenue, cross the railroad tracks and continue to the west entrance of the Port of Pasco. Turn left onto Maitland Avenue in front of the U.S. Army Reserve Center. At "A" Street, turn right, cross the railroad tracks and continue east. Turn right onto Road 40 east, traveling south toward the Columbia River. Turn right to cross the railroad, again, and proceed to Sacajawea State Park. After touring the park, return by the same route.

Columbia Center Mall to Benton City 27 miles

Leave Columbia Center from the west via Gage Boulevard to Keene Road. Turn right (north) on Keene Rd.; continue west on Keene Rd. to Queensgate Blvd. Turn right on Queensgate, left on Dupertail, then right onto Kennedy Rd. Follow Kennedy Road all the way to SR 225 (7.5 miles) and turn right, crossing the Yakima River (narrow bridge/no shoulder) into Benton City. From Benton City return south on SR 225, crossing under I-82. Continue south on Weber Canyon Road, then left onto Badger Road. Follow Badger Road to south Kennewick, crossing under I-82, then left on to Leslie Road. Proceed north on Leslie then right onto Gage Boulevard for the return to Columbia Center.

Parks, Local and Regional

City, county and state parks are shown on the map. The larger more heavily used parks have toilet facilities and potable water for use from spring through fall. Some smaller neighborhood parks have water only. Others have no water or toilets. There are no user fees. Please put trash in proper receptacles.



BICYCLING TIPS

Fitting Your Bicycle

Riding a bicycle that doesn't fit can lead to sore knees, an aching back, and a stiff neck. With a standard man's bicycle, you should be able to stand comfortably over the top tube with one to two inches of clearance. The seat should be level and adjusted so that your knees are slightly bent when the pedal is at its lowest position. For most riding the handlebars should be the same height as the seat. The distance from the handlebars to the front of the seat should be the same as the distance from your elbow to the tips of your fingers.

Equipping Your Bicycle

Lights and reflectors are essential for good visibility in foul weather and after dark. You should have a headlight and taillight, a red rear reflector, a white front reflector, and white or amber reflectors for wheels and pedals.

You might want to carry a basic tool kit consisting of tire levers, patch kit, wrenches, screw drivers, Allen keys, crank extractor, needle nose pliers, pocket knife and spoke wrench, as well as a spare inner tube, rear brake cable and light bulbs. These items can be carried in a rear bag or rack pack.

A chain and lock should always be carried. The use of toe clips or clipless pedals will increase pedaling efficiency.



Suiting Yourself

Helmets reduce head injuries, which account for 75 percent of all bicycle-related deaths in the United States. Get a Snell, ANSI, or CPSC approved helmet and don't ride without it. Purchase your helmet from a knowledgeable professional to insure proper fit. Beware of used helmets. There may be unseen damage.

Wear bright colored clothing. Yellow or lime green is most visible. You may want to increase your visibility by adding reflective tapes to your helmet and clothing. Pant clips will keep pant legs away from the bicycle chain.

Perspiration

Regardless of weather conditions or level of physical fitness, an exercising body requires fluid replacement. On hot days, ride slower to avoid heat exhaustion. Always drink plenty of fluids before, during, and after a ride. Plan on a 22 oz. bottle for every 10-15 miles. Remember thirst is not always an accurate indicator of your body's need for water. After parking your bike, take a slow walk around the block to cool down.

Parked Cars and Pedestrians

You should never ride closer than three feet to a parked car. If you notice someone sitting in a car, move left or be prepared to stop. The car door may open.

Pedestrians have the right-of-way; always yield to them.



Riding

Bicycling provides good exercise, relief from stress, efficient transportation, recreation and competition. This map is designed as an aid to safe bicycling in the Tri-Cities. Experiment with different options, making the route longer or shorter to fit your ability. Before starting a longer ride give your bicycle a thorough checkup. Look for loose screws and bolts, oil the chain and wipe off the excess, inflate tires to the proper pressure. Be sure brakes and gears are properly adjusted. Carry a basic tool kit, extra water and foul weather clothing. Dress in layers so you can subtract or add garments to suit the temperature.

Riding In The Rain

Bicycle fenders will keep mud out of the chain and off your clothing. A rain cape or suit will keep you dry. A helmet cover is preferable to a hood, which can obstruct vision when you turn your head.

Water decreases braking efficiency, and wet pavement can be slick on turns. Your chain should always be re-oiled after it has gotten wet.



Avoiding Accidents

If you learn how to recognize and deal with the most common accident situations you will greatly reduce your chances of being involved in a car/bike collision.

Nearly thirty percent of all car/bike collisions occur because the motorist fails to yield the right-of-way. Don't be taken unprepared if a vehicle pulls out in front of you from a stop sign or a left turn. The best way to avoid accidents of this type is to ride in a straight line and stay where the motorist expects to see traffic. Make yourself visible by wearing bright colored clothing.

Cyclist's failure to yield accounts for the other major cause of car/bike collision. Don't ride out of driveways without stopping, run red lights and stop signs, or turn left in front of cars without checking for traffic. Make left turns from the left traffic or turn lane, NOT from the right shoulder. (If you do not want to use the traffic lane, dismount and walk the bike across the intersection)

Another problem is created by bicyclists who ride at night without lights. Bicycles should be equipped with reflectors and both a headlight and a taillight.

To avoid being hit from behind, become proficient at looking over your shoulder without swerving. You can also invest in a rear view mirror and use it regularly to check traffic.

Dealing With Dogs

Even a friendly dog can be a hazard if he gets in front of your wheel or jumps up on you. Command the dog to "Go home!" in a loud, firm voice. If he doesn't respond, dismount and walk away slowly with the bicycle between you and the dog. To discourage a truly aggressive dog you may have to resort to throwing dirt or using a commercial spray deterrent (this should be done only as the last resort).

Freeway Use

In Washington State, bicycles are permitted on most freeway shoulders. However, bicyclists are expected to use special care, using only the shoulders and not the freeway travel lanes. No counter flow traffic is allowed; the cyclist must travel with vehicle traffic and go only one way. Take special care when crossing on and off ramps since cyclists are not expected there. Be sure to use hand signals.

Restrictions

Bicycles are not allowed on the SR 240 Yakima River bridge roadway or the SR 395 Columbia River bridge roadway. Bikes must use the side paths on these structures.

Local Hazards

Why are flat tires such a problem in the Tri-Cities? The chief culprits are "tack weeds" or "goat heads", small thorns that are found on a variety of local groundcreepers. Tack weeds are especially troublesome in the fall when the plants become dormant, but can be found at anytime.

There are several precautions you can take against tack weeds. Avoid riding on unpaved surfaces. Install metal "tire savers" under the caliper brake supports. With each wheel revolution they will sweep away the weeds. Thorn resistant tubes and Kevlar strips between the tube and tire will also help.

When you do get a flat tire, be sure to check the inside of the tire and remove the thorn in the direction opposite from which it entered.

The Tri-Cities limited rainfall and desert condition can easily cause the cyclist to dehydrate. For this reason it's recommended that you carry two water bottles and sample the contents frequently. Thirst is not always an accurate indicator of your body's need for water.

You will also need protection from the hot desert sun. An adequate sunscreen should be used to block excess exposure to ultraviolet rays. Loose lightweight clothing that breathes is a good choice. Remember the most intense rays occur between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., May through October.

Winds with gusts up to 35 miles an hour are a common occurrence in the Tri-Cities. Be sure to travel a safe distance from traffic in case a wind gust blows you sideways and use the lower gears.

For winter cycling, layered clothing will provide warmth and protection from the cold winds.

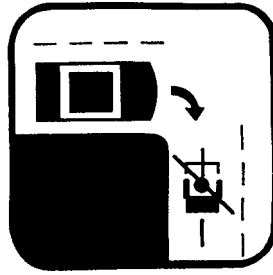
Bikes On Buses

If you would like to ride a bus while traveling with your bicycle, you can do so at no added cost. Ben Franklin Transit has installed bike racks on all buses, providing a convenient way to bike-and-ride. You may load and unload your bicycle at any bus stop between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturdays. There is no Sunday or major holiday service. Schedules are such that transfers can be accomplished at transit centers or transfer points with minimal or no delay. For further information call BFT at 735-5100.

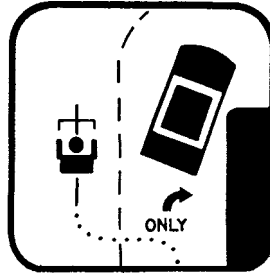
Ride Legally

As a bicyclist, you are entitled to all the rights of the road, but you must accept the responsibilities, too. Never ride against traffic. You must obey all traffic lights, signs and other traffic control devices. When you are about to signal your intentions, use hand signals for left turn, right turn, slow or stop. Remember, the law not only protects you as a vehicle driver, but also allows you to co-exist on the roadway with other vehicles. You must pull over if you are holding up 5 or more vehicles.

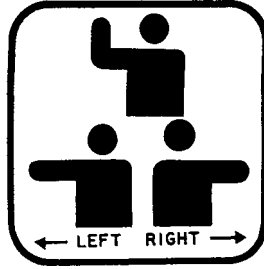
Do not use sidewalks. Maintain a safe speed on paths shared with pedestrians.



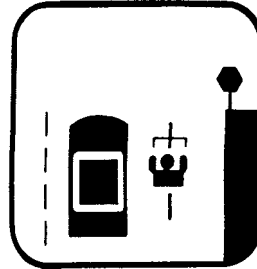
**Never ride
against traffic**



Follow lane markings



Use hand signals



**Obey traffic signs
and signals**

Ride Prepared (Day or Night)

Wear a Snell, ANSI, or CPSC approved helmet. Keep your bicycle in good repair and adjust it to fit your body. Pay special attention to your brakes. Wear bright colored clothing with reflective markings. Wear sunglasses to protect eyes from bugs. Carry an extra tube, tire irons, pump, rain gear, and coins for an emergency phone call, plus a locking device so you can secure your bicycle at necessary stops. With a rear rack or handlebar bag you can carry these items easily. If you ride at night, you must be properly illuminated. Your bicycle must have a front headlamp, which can be seen for 500 feet, and a rear reflector visible from 100 to 600 feet in the low beam headlights of an automobile. A taillight is highly recommended.



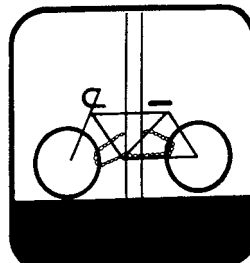
**Keep bicycle in
good repair**



Use lights at night



**Use helmet and
dress for weather**

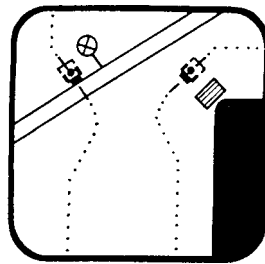


**Lock bicycle when
not in use**

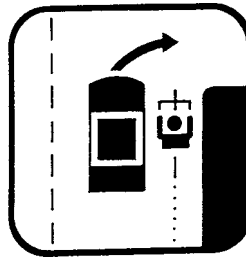
Ride Safely

Ride defensively. You must assume motorists don't see you! Keep your eyes on other drivers. You will find that motorists are more likely to respect your right to share the roadway if you drive legally and predictably. Avoid weaving in and out of traffic. Be alert. Watch for debris on the roadway and stay away from roads with rough surfaces or chuckholes. Cross railroad tracks at right angles or walk your bicycle. Avoid grates and manhole covers.

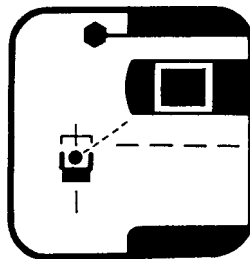
There are two ways to turn left safely: (1) Like an auto. Signal and move into left lane and turn left; (2) Like a pedestrian. Ride straight to the far side crosswalk, walk your bike across.



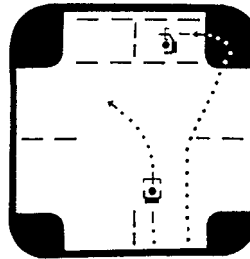
Watch for rough surfaces,
debris and crossings



Don't pass on the right



Watch for cars
pulling out



Turn left with care

Bicycle Commuting

When you think about your work commute, remember your bicycle. Bicycle commuting can be to your work site, to the bus stop, or to the car or vanpool meeting point. You will improve your overall health and fitness, lose those extra pounds, save money, increase your energy level and productivity at work, reduce fuel consumption and air pollution, and get one more car off the road.

The Tri-Cities Bicycle Guide Map was developed by the Benton-Franklin Council of Governments to aid bicyclists in the selection of appropriate routes through the Tri-Cities area. We have indicated only the routes and paths which were in existence at the time of this map's preparation. No attempt has been made to include routes which are proposed for future completion.

Bicycle Repair Shops

Kennewick Schwinn Cyclery
3101 W. Clearwater Avenue
Kennewick, WA 99336
(509) 735-8525 or 1-800-827-8157

Richland Schwinn Cyclery
1374 Jadwin Avenue
Richland, WA 99352
Uptown Shopping Center
(509) 943-4496 or 1-800-750-8312

Markee's Cycle Center
4723 W. Clearwater Avenue
Kennewick, WA 99336
(509) 783-2870

Tri-Cities Bicycle Guide Map



Credits

Benton County
Franklin County
City of Kennewick
City of Pasco
City of Richland
City of West Richland
BFCG Non-Motorized Transportation Committee
Tri-City Bicycle Club



This map was prepared by the Benton-Franklin Council of Governments, P.O. Box 217, Richland, Washington 99352, with financial assistance through a grant from the W.S.D.O.T., with additional funding provided by the I.B.E.W. (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) local union #112.

For further information contact:

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6951 W. Grandridge Blvd.
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